

THE COLLECTION #1

# Sandro Scalia

## *naturalia /artificialia*

15th February – 22nd March 2015  
Ex-Stables, Ventimiglia Castle, Museo Civico di Castelbuono  
**Opening: Sunday 15th February 2015 at 12.00 noon**



The Museo Civico di Castelbuono is pleased to present Sandro Scalia's solo exhibition *naturalia/artificialia*, the first of a series of shows focusing on artists whose works are present in the permanent collection of the museum. On the occasion of the opening, the museum will present to the public a photograph by Sandro Scalia dated 1995, previously in the museum's deposit, restored especially for this event. The image is of a detail of the late seventeenth century plaster work by Giacomo Serpotta from the Palatine Chapel of the Ventimiglia Castle.

The exhibition *naturalia/artificialia* is a new project by Sandro Scalia, realized as a result of a residency, researching the artistic heritage, architecture and landscape of Castelbuono and its territory. A visual search, using video and photography, conducted in some unique sites, following both botanical references, light and sound phenomena: the forest of monumental hollies, the Clock Tower, details of some beautiful spots, continuing his investigation of Sicilian landscape that the artist has been following for over a decade, with the project *Letture Siciliane*. Scalia is an expert of the Madonie area, since it has been the subject of numerous of his works, from *A20*, dedicated to the construction of the Palermo – Messina motorway, with its monumental viaducts, to the series of shots of the "Sunday drivers" on the snow in Piano Battaglia, just to name two.

The photographs and videos on show – the audio of one of these was made in collaboration with composer and performer Alessandro Libro - give us a new outlook on contemporary landscape, continuing the research of the identity of the area being conducted by the Museo Civico di Castelbuono. The idea is to get learn more about the environment around us from different perspectives. A scenario of great beauty on which at which we glance at ever more hastily. The aim of Sandro Scalia's use of the widescreen image, stretched horizontally - the artist's favourite cut - pushes us into the image and seduces us through the particular use of colour, the elegant choices of the contrast of light and the scene constructed with care, or found by chance. The view of the photographer involves everyone as spectators, with the intent of developing a broader discussion of our personal relationship with the horizon, with the space we inhabit, and especially with the image as a gesture that freezes a moment forever. For the show, Sandro Scalia will donate a new photographic work to the museum, in order to increment the permanent collection of the Museo Civico di Castelbuono with the new commissions of original artistic productions.

Sandro Scalia's solo show is accompanied by the publication of a catalogue produced for the exhibition with an introduction by Laura Barreca, an interview by Valentina Bruschi and a critical text by Salvatore Davì. The format of this book, conceived and designed by Paolo Di Vita - Professor of Editorial Graphics at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera in Milan - will be adopted for the all the publications of the series of "Notebooks of the Collection", focused on the artists present in the permanent collection of the museum.

The museum wishes to thank the **Agriturismo Bergi** for their support of Sandro Scalia's project and **The HotelSphere Hotel & Villa Collection**, as Main sponsor of the Museo Civico's annual program.

#### Biography:

**Sandro Scalia** (Ragusa, 1959. Lives and works in Palermo) studied photography at the Umanitaria in Milan and graduated in Decoration at the Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo and in Photography at the Academy of Fine Arts in Catania. He began working with magazines and publishing houses in 1988 in Milan and in 1990 returned to live in Palermo, where he teaches photography at the Academy of Fine Arts. In 1995, on the occasion of the "Rencontres de la Photographie" in Arles, he was awarded a prize at the Galeria Arthouse, and in 1996 he won the Portfolio Prize for Modena Photography. For more information: [www.sandroscalia.com](http://www.sandroscalia.com)

#### Information:

Title of the exhibition: *naturalia/artificialia*

Artist: Sandro Scalia

Catalogue: design by Paolo Di Vita

Texts: Laura Barreca, Valentina Bruschi, Salvatore Davì

Opening: SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2015 - at 12.00 noon

Duration: 15th February – 22nd March 2015

Address: Museo Civico di Castelbuono, Castello dei Ventimiglia, P.zza Castello – Castelbuono (Palermo), Italy.

Telephone: +39.0921.671211

Opening times: from Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM and from 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Tickets: € 4,00; reduced € 2,00 (for people 65 years old or over and from 8 to 18 years old, schools and groups of 12 people or more); free entrance for children under 7 years of age.

Web site: [www.museocivico.eu](http://www.museocivico.eu)

In the Museo Civico di Castelbuono there is also the ongoing solo exhibition *Lipadusa, stories of Life and the Sea* by Calogero Camalleri, in collaboration with Fabrica (until 8 March 2015).

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